

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 02281 151401Z  
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /033 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1284  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
USDEL ABOARD SAM

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2281

DEPARTMENT FOR H:

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR OVIP  
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF REMARKS OF SENATOR CHARLES H. PERCY  
AND REPRESENTATIVE JOHN J. CAVANAUGH

1.DURINGTHEIR VISIT TO NEW DELHI AS PART OF THE US  
DELEGATIONTO THEFUNERAL OF THE LATE PRESIDENT, SENATOR  
PERCY AND REPRESENTATIVE CAVANAUGH MET WITH THE PRESS.  
THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE ARTICLES APPEARING  
IN THE NEW DELHI MORNING PAPERS, FEBRUARY 15.

2. UNDER A BOLD TWO COLUMN HEADLINE, "INDO-US TIES:  
SENATOR OPTIMISTIC", THE "ECONOMIC TIMES" QUOTED SENATOR  
PERCY AS SAYING, "INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE NO REAL  
BILATERAL PROBLEMS NOW." THE SENATOR SAID THAT WITH THE  
LOOSENING UP OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRESS AND "WITH  
OBVIOUS OPPOSITION AND OF OPPOSITION FROM WITHIN THE  
CONGRESS PARTY, NOW THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC  
PROCESSES, BETTER RELATIONS SEEM TO BE ONLY A MATTER OF  
TIME." MR. PERCY IS REPORTED TO HAVE LAUDED INDIA'S  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN CONTROLLING INFLATION AND INCREASING  
PRODUCTIVITY, WHICH SHOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THE AMERICAN  
INVESTOR. "WE HAVE A GREAT DESIRE TO INCREASE OUR TRADE,  
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OUR CULTURAL EXCHANGES...WE HAVE WATCHED INDIA IMPROVE  
HER RELATIONS WITH CHINA CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN US  
POLICIES." SENATOR PERCY IS REPORTED TO HAVE NOTED THAT THE  
ABILITY OF SOUTH ASIA, UNLIKE THE MIDDLE EAST, TO HANDLE ITS OWN  
PROBLEMS WAS A "SIGN OF MATURING GOVERNMENT, A MATURING  
RELATIONSHIP." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED QUOTING THE SENATOR:  
"ALL THIS SPELLS GOOD FOR INDIA AND IS A TRIBUTE TO

MRS. GANDHI'S REGIME." THE "FINANCIAL EXPRESS" CARRIED A SIMILAR PAGE ONE STORY.

3. THE "INDIAN EXPRESS", CARRIED THE SAMACHAR WIRE SERVICE REPORT OF SENATOR PERCY'S FEBRUARY 14 LUNCHEON MEETING WITH THE PRESS. THE SENATOR REPORTEDLY OBSERVED THAT AFTER HAVING BEEN AWAY FROM INDIA FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS HE FOUND THE COUNTRY MUCH BETTER AND WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE NEW SENSE OF DISCIPLINE. THE SENATOR IS REPORTED AS WISHING TO ASSURE INDIA THAT AMERICA DID NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN ITS DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. "WE WANT TO HAVE A FAST AND FIRM RELATIONSHIP AND DID NOT WISH TO FRACTURE IT." THE SENATOR REPORTEDLY SOUGHT TO ALLAY APPREHENSIONS ABOUT PAKISTAN'S ACQUIRING THE NUCLEAR BOMB. THE SAMACHAR DESPATCH WAS ALSO CARRIED IN THE HINDI LANGUAGE, "HINDUSTAN", UNDER THE TITLE: "CONDITIONS IN INDIA MUCH BETTER THAN BEFORE: PERCY."

3. UNDER A TWO COLUMN HEADLINE, "US CONGRESSMAN HAILS INDIA'S ECONOMIC UPLIFT" THE "TIMES OF INDIA" QUOTED REPRESENTATIVE CAVANAUGH AS SAYING THAT HE WAS "VERY IMPRESSED BY INDIA'S PERFORMANCE IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS DRIVE TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY." HE REPORTEDLY SAID HE WOULD SUBMIT A FAVORABLE REPORT TO THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES ON WHICH HE SERVED. AS FOR A RESUMPTION OF US AID TO INDIA, MR. CAVANAUGH REPORTEDLY SAID HE WOULD FIRST LIKE TO HEAR MORE FROM INDIA ON THE SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE "MORE INPUT FROM INDIA" IN ESTABLISHING A STRONGER AND MORE POSITIVE INDO-AMERICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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RELATIONSHIP AND REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO AREAS SUCH AS TRADE AND INVESTMENT. THE CONGRESSMAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HE GOT THE IMPRESSION FROM SECRETARY VANCE THAT INDIA WOULD QUALIFY FOR MORE CONSIDERATION THAN IN THE PAST. HE REPORTEDLY COMMENTED ON A MEETING HE HAD WITH US BUSINESSMEN AND SAID THEY WERE NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH THE EXISTING STATE OF AFFAIRS.

4. THE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" REPORTED REPRESENTATIVE CAVANAUGH AS SAYING THAT HE ENVISAGED A "MORE MATURE AND DEVELOPED RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN INDIA AND THE US UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER. COMMENTING ON HIS MEETING WITH US BUSINESSMEN HE SAID THAT HE GOT THE IMPRESSION FROM THEM THAT THE CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT HAD BEEN "DIFFICULT BUT IS IMPROVING."

5. REPRESENTATIVE CAVANAUGH'S REMARKS WERE ALSO REPORTED IN THE "STATESMAN."

6. SENATOR PERCY'S TV INTERVIEW WAS SCREENED LAST NIGHT.SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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